

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7692

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 474

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS EI

SUBJ: CHANGES IN FOREIGN MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM

REF: STATE 51768

1. WE HAVE ONLY A SMALL FMTP WITH IRELAND, AND DO NOT ESTIMATE THAT INCREASED COSTS WILL HAVE ANY MAJOR EFFECTS. THE INFORMATION BELOW IS KEYED TO SUBPARAGRAPHS OF PARA 5 OF REFTEL.

A. NONE

B. COURSES OF GREATEST INTEREST AND CURRENTLY UTILIZED ARE:

INFANTRY ADVANCED COURSE, FORT BENNING, GA.

COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COURSE, FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANS.

INTERNATIONAL STAFF OFFICERS COURSE, NAVAL WAR COLLEGE, NEWPORT, R. I.

HOST GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN PAYING TRANSPORTATION AND LIVING COSTS. THE US HAS BEEN PAYING TUITION ON NON-MAP BASIS. THE GOI WILL PROBABLY ASSUME TUITION PAYMENT BUT WOULD REDUCE FREQUENCY OF ATTENDANCE TO ONE OFFICER EVERY TWO-THREE YEARS AT EITHER FORT BENNING OR FORT LEAVENWORTH, AND A NAVAL OFFICER EVERY THREE-FOUR YEARS AT NEWPORT.

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C. ALL COURSES ARE OF BENEFIT TO US NATIONAL INTERESTS IF ONE

ASSUMES IRELAND WILL ULTIMATELY JOIN A EUROPEAN DEFENSE ALLIANCE, OR THAT AT LEAST IRISH FORCES WOULD BE "PRO-WEST" NEUTRAL IN ANY CONFLICT. ALSO THE IRISH ARMY IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF INTERNAL SECURITY AND STABILITY, WHICH WE CONSIDER IN OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS. ONLY TUITION HAS BEEN PAID BY US HERETOFORE. THIS STATION HAS NO KNOWN FUNDING LEVEL; OFFICERS ATTEND BY ANNUAL INVITATION.

D. SEE PARA B.

E. POSSIBLY LOOK TO GREAT BRITAIN WHERE IRELAND NOW SENDS NAVAL CADETS AND ARTILLERY OFFICERS. MILITARY COMPETENCE WOULD NOT BE SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED. SINCE IRELAND REQUESTS LARGE AMOUNTS OF US TRAINING LITERATURE WHICH THEY PREFER OVER BRITISH MILITARY LITERATURE, WE WOULD NOT EXPECT INTEREST IN US MILITARY MATERIAL AND DOCTRINE TO DECLINE SIGNIFICANTLY. ALSO, WE WOULD FORESEE NO EFFECT ON BILATERAL RELATIONS. CURLEY

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